



421454



## **Champaign Manufactured Gas Plant Environmental Project Open House**

Ameren invites you to visit our Open House for the  
Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site Environmental Project

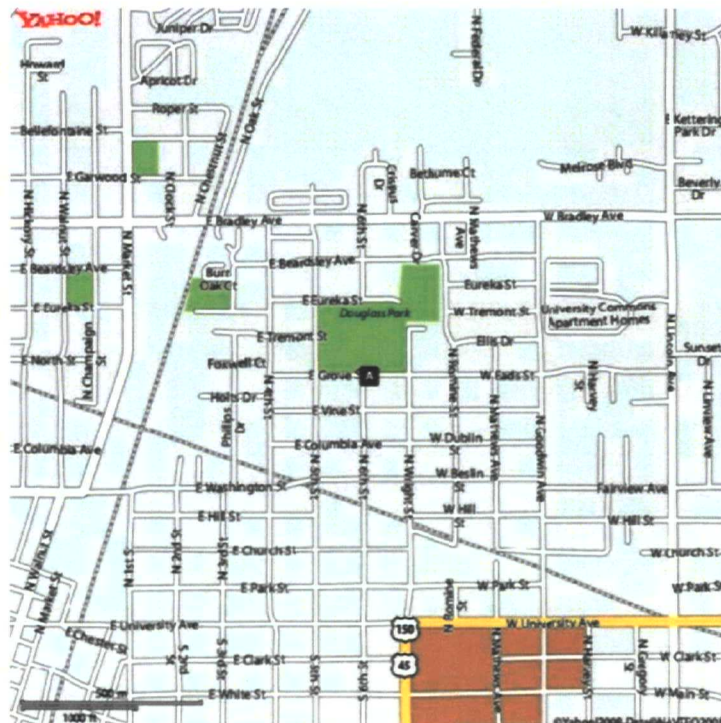
Washington Elementary School  
606 E. Grove Street  
Champaign, IL

**Monday, September 8, 2008**

Drop in anytime between  
**4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Representatives from Ameren, the project contractor and the Illinois  
Environmental Protection Agency will be available to answer your questions.

### **Displays and refreshments**





## **Questions & Answers: Champaign, Illinois, Manufactured Gas Plant Site Project Update Fact Sheet – August 2008**

In spring 2008, the Ameren Illinois Utilities collected additional soil and groundwater samples as part of the environmental investigation at the site of a former manufactured gas plant at 308 N. Fifth Street, Champaign. PSC, an environmental engineering firm under contract to Ameren, performed the work along the boundaries of our property and on nearby properties. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and the U. S. EPA reviewed and approved the work plan for the sample collection, which was designed to provide more information about impacts to the environment from historical gas production operations. The results of this latest phase of the study confirmed previous findings that gas production byproducts, which are primarily coal tar, remain beneath the ground surface. These findings indicate additional cleanup will be needed at the site.

*While the byproducts contain chemicals that may pose a health risk if people come into direct contact with them over a long period of time, the previous investigations and the spring 2008 results raised no concerns about immediate exposure. The impacted areas are limited and the highest levels of contamination are more than 10 feet below ground. The Ameren Illinois Utilities are working with the Illinois EPA to address the contaminants that were found on and off of the former manufactured gas plant property.*

This fact sheet updates the January 2008 fact sheet.

**Q: What are manufactured gas plants?**

A: Manufactured gas plants (MGPs) produced gas from coal or oil for lighting, heating and cooking during the era prior to the availability of natural gas from interstate pipelines. Manufactured gas plants were active in Illinois from about the mid-1800s until the 1940s.

**Q: What is the history of the Champaign manufactured gas plant property?**

A: Predecessor companies of the Ameren Illinois Utilities produced gas from coal and oil on the property. The manufactured gas was stored in large, cylindrical above-ground holders before distribution to the community. Between the 1930s and early 1950s, the plant was used only occasionally to supplement natural gas. Most of the plant structures were removed from the property in the late 1950s, except for the booster house. An American Legion post used this building between 1979 and 1991, when Illinois Power reacquired the property.

**Q: What residues were created during the gas manufacturing process?**

A: As with many industrial processes, gas manufacturing produced residues. Coal tars, coke, and ash were the primary residues of the gas manufacturing process. Both the coal tars and coke were valuable byproducts. Coke was the remaining portion of the coal after the process used to manufacture gas was complete. Byproduct coke was used as a heating fuel at the



using this groundwater. The site and surrounding area are served by the Illinois-American Water Company. The public water supply comes from wells which are a mile or more away from the site, and they are not affected by the MGP site.

The Ameren Illinois Utilities continue to work with the Illinois EPA, the city of Champaign and the owners of affected properties to address MGP impacts wherever they are found. Though there is currently no concern for neighborhood residents to be exposed to these impacts, the Ameren Illinois Utilities will take the necessary steps to ensure that exposure does not occur in the future.

**Q: What work has been performed as part of the environmental project?**

A: Environmental engineering firms under contract to Ameren and Illinois Power, which the Ameren Illinois Utilities acquired in 2004, investigated soil and groundwater conditions in several phases at the property and in areas on all four sides of our property. Studies were performed in 1986, 1990, 1992 and 1997.

Tarry residues were found underground in the vicinity of old plant structures, and laboratory analyses of soil and groundwater samples detected chemical compounds typically found at former manufactured gas plant sites.

In the winter of 1997-98, Illinois Power removed tar and other materials that were a major source of the soil and groundwater contamination. Philip Environmental Services Corp., under contract to Illinois Power, performed the work in accordance with an Illinois EPA-approved work plan and an air monitoring program. The contractor excavated tar and other residual material from structures that remained below the property, backfilled the areas and restored the surface with gravel, topsoil and grass.

In order to meet Illinois EPA's revised requirements for cleaning up contaminated properties, in summer 2004, the contractor returned to the site to further investigate the northern portion of the manufactured gas plant site and adjacent property to the north and east. Workers used boring equipment to collect soil samples and a backhoe to excavate areas where former gas manufacturing structures had been located. As with previous investigations, the air was monitored for vapors and dust whenever this work was being performed to protect the workers and neighborhood residents.

Workers returned to the site in spring 2008 to install more groundwater monitoring wells and collect additional soil and groundwater samples in response to the state and federal EPAs' comments on the Comprehensive Site Investigation Report of the 2004. The sampling was conducted under a work plan approved by the two EPAs.

**Q: How were the limits of the MGP impacts defined?**

A: We identified potential sources of MGP contaminants on the site, such as gas holders or other gas manufacturing equipment. We collected soil and groundwater samples near these potential sources and we moved outward until we reached the limits of impact. We confirmed that we reached the limits of MGP impact when we obtained soil or groundwater samples that met the Illinois EPA's cleanup objectives or when the data evaluation indicated that the impact did not come from the MGP. Other sources could include creosote-treated wood, asphalt streets, releases of diesel fuel or gasoline from former gas stations, etc. The off-site investigation showed that the off-site MGP impacts to soil and groundwater were limited to a maximum distance of 150 feet from the site. At most locations, the maximum distance was much less.

**Q: Does Ameren have any experience in dealing with manufactured gas plant sites?**

A: Yes. We have completed successful studies and cleanups of manufactured gas plant sites in at least 20 locations in Illinois and Missouri.

**Q: How may people in the community ask questions and offer opinions about this project?**

A: The Ameren Illinois Utilities are committed to open communication with those interested in the project. We have placed a collection of documents associated with the project in a **Site Information Repository** located at the Douglass Branch of the Champaign Public Library at 504 E. Grove Street. The telephone number of the library is 217-403-2090. Library hours are Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Documents have also been placed at the Champaign City Building, located at 102 N. Neil Street, which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, unless otherwise posted. The report and fact sheets may be reviewed at the Information Desk located in the Atrium Lobby. If you have questions or the desk is temporarily un-staffed you may inquire at the Neighborhood Service Department in the same building or call 217-403-7070.

Information about the project can also be found on Ameren's web site at [http://www.ameren.com/Environment/ADC\\_ChampaignMPGRemediationProject.asp](http://www.ameren.com/Environment/ADC_ChampaignMPGRemediationProject.asp).

Additional inquiries about the project can be made by calling Mr. Leigh Morris with the Ameren Illinois Utilities at 217-535-5228 or by e-mail at [lmorris@ameren.com](mailto:lmorris@ameren.com). His mailing address is Public Relations, Ameren Illinois Utilities, 200 W. Washington St., Springfield IL 62701.

Inquires regarding Illinois EPA's oversight of this project can be made by contacting Stan Black at 217-785-1427 or by e-mail at [stan.black@illinois.gov](mailto:stan.black@illinois.gov) His mailing address is Office of Community Relations, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276.

# MGP-Related Tier 1 Exceedances by Depth

